

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MMS-01 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

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O R 102304Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2458

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1479

MONTEVIDEO AND BUENOS AIRES FOR ASST SECY ROGERS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECOSOC, SHUM, CI, PFOR

SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

1. SUMMARY: CONTRARY TO OUR EARLIER EXPECTATION, GOC SPOKESMEN IN PAST FEW DAYS HAVE STATED THAT GOC WILL NOT DECIDE WHETHER TO RECEIVE UNHCR STUDY GROUP UNTIL UN HAS TRANSMITTED REQUEST FORMALLY. IN MEANTIME, THERE IS PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT FROM THE RIGHT NOT TO ACCEPT THE GROUP, ON BASIS THAT ACCEPTANCE WOULD INFRINGE CHILEAN SOVEREIGNTY. END SUMMARY.

2. AT REGULAR PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 6, UNDERSECY FONMIN COLONEL ENRIQUE VALDES DUCKED QUESTIONS ON CHILEAN ATTITUDE TOWARD UNHRC STUDY GROUP BY SAYING GOVERNMENT WILL STUDY OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION WHEN IT ARRIVES AND REPLY AFTERWARDS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN PRINCIPLE CHILE "HAS BEEN OPEN TO ALL THESE PROBLEMS AND WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE."

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3. DIR OF GOVT INFORMATION COLONEL ORLANDO JEREZ NEXT DAY TOOK LESS FORTHCOMING POSITION IN SAYING THAT WHEN UN REQUEST FOR ENTRY OF GROUP ARRIVES, GOC WILL DECIDE TO ACCEPT, AMEND, OR REJECT IT.

4. CONSERVATIVE "EL MERCURIO" EDITORIAL MARCH 6, WHICH WAS SUBJECT OF QUESTION TO VALDES, STRONGLY RECOMMENDED GOC NOT RECEIVE STUDY GROUP, SINCE INVESTIGATION WOULD BE ILLEGITIMATE INTERFERENCE IN CHILEAN SOVEREIGNTY. PAPER SAID UNHRC RESOLUTION WENT BEYOND UN'S COMPETENCE, ARGUED THAT THE ULTIMATE "JUDGE" (I.E., UNGA) WOULD BE POLITICAL, AND THAT INVESTIGATION WOULD KEEP CHILE IN THE NEWS FOR A LONG TIME.

5. CONSERVATIVE EX-SENATOR SERGIO JARPA, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL PARTY AND MEMBER OF CHILEAN DELEGATION TO LAST UNGA, TOOK SIMILAR LINE IN MARCH 8 INTERVIEW WITH "EL MERCURIO": "CHILE CANNOT ACCEPT AN ACT SO OFFENSIVE TO ITS SOVEREIGNTY." HE ADDED ARGUMENTS THAT SUCH GROUPS "INVARIABLY" RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRIES "MAKING FALSEST AND MOST PREPOSTEROUS AFFIRMATIONS"; CHILE IS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY HAVING TO ACCEPT THEM, AND ANY NEW REPORT WOULD ONLY BE USED AGAINST CHILE.

6. COMMENT: WE CONSIDERED COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF CHILEAN OBSERVERS AT RECENT UNHRC MEETING IN GENEVA AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF FLEXIBILITY AND GOOD SENSE. THIS AND FONMINISTRY'S MATTER-OF-FACT ACCEPTANCE OF STUDY GROUP IN FEB 28 PRESS RELEASE WITH THE GROUP. VALDES' STATEMENT WAS POSITIVE IN REFERRING TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S CUSTOMARY OPENNESS TO INVESTIGATIVE BODIES; THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO POLICY ANNOUNCED IN PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S DECEMBER 31 SPEECH OF RECEIVING ONLY GROUPS THAT INVESTIGATE COMMUNISTS' TRANSGRESSIONS ALSO. BUT VALDES AND JEREZ WERE CAREFUL TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OPEN.

7. "MERCURIO" AND JARPA REFLECT THE KIND OF RIGHTWING THINKING THAT LED TO PINOCHET'S POLICY STATEMENT. IF OCCASION PRESENTS ITSELF, WE WILL URGE CHILEANS TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY CONSEQUENCES OF OPPOSITION TO STUDY GROUP.  
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## Message Attributes

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